

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 OMB-01 AID-20

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R 041803Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 8806

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: LEFTIST PERONIST YOUTH ROLL UP IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. ALFONSINISTAS OF RADICAL PARTY DO WELL. BIG LOSERS ARE ORTHODOX COMMUNISTS. DETAILED ANALYSIS TO FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. ELECTIONS WERE RECENTLY CONCLUDED IN THE VARIOUS STATE UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA. THE RESULTS INDICATE THAT THE LEFTIST PERONIST UNIVERSITY YOUTH (JUP) DOMINATED THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (UBA) IN WHAT WAS THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE IN UNIVERSITY POLITICS: THE ALFONSINISTA BRANCH OF THE RADICAL PARTY, UNDER THE NAME OF FRANJA MORADA ALSO MADE A GOOD SHOWING. THE BIG LOSER WAS THE ORTHODOX COMMUNIST GROUP (MOR) WHICH HAD WON IN ALMOST ALL THE UBA SCHOOLS LAST YEAR.

3. IN THE OTHER UNIVERSITIES THE PATTERN IS MUCH LESS CLEAR CUT. JUP WAS MUCH WEAKER OUTSIDE BUENOS AIRES BUT FRANJA MORADA STILL DID WELL.

4. THESE ELECTIONS WERE THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE IN YEARS.

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ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD OF THE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS VOTED. ONE UNUSUAL

SIDE EFFECT OF THIS IS THE FACT THAT THE MOR INCREASED ITS
NUMBER OF VOTES IN ALL CASES BUT STILL WAS DEFEATED IN ALL BUT
TWO UBA SCHOOLS.

5. COMMENT. THE OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTIONS IS DIFFI-
CULT TO PROJECT AND WILL DEPEND IN PART ON THE ALLIANCES THAT
THE JUP CAN MAKE AND THEIR SUCCESS IN DOMINATING UNIVERSITY
POLITICS IN THE COMING YEAR. WHILE THE JUP VICTORIES ARE VERY
IMPRESSIVE FOR A FIRST EFFORT, THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT
STRENGTH TO CONTROL THE SITUATION BY THEMSELVES. SOME OBSERVERS
HAVE LOOKED ON THE JUP VICTORIES AS A VINDICATION OF THE POLICIES
OF FORMER RECTOR RUDOLFO PUIGGROS. IT PROBABLY DOES NOT INDICATE
ANY GREAT CHANGE OF THOUGHT ON THE PART OF THE STUDENTS BUT
RATHER THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PERONISTS AND RADICALES GAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY OF EXPRESSION TO A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO
HERETOFORE HAD NOT BEEN REPRESENTED.
KREBS

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